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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

South Vietnam

Our latest information on the situation in Saigon indicates that Senior Embassy personnel have returned to duty in the Embassy. The situation in Saigon has stabilized somewhat, however mopping up operations continue in the area of the presidential palace and in the Cholon area of Saigon.

Sporadic sniper fire has been reported in various parts of Saigon and there has also been some scattered firing around the MACV headquarters. Scattered and sometimes heavy Viet Cong activity is taking place in the Cholon area but a considerable number of the enemy have withdrawn across the river.

The Saigon police estimated that more than 60 police have been killed in various actions around Saigon. They also report that 60 Viet Cong have been killed in actions within Saigon.

Sporadic small-arms fire continues at the Tan Son Nhut Air Base. The Viet Cong penetrated the northwest gate and also probed the main gate area and at last report over 100 enemy soldiers were within the base area. There was also sporadic mortar fire directed at the runway, however, the base is reportedly operational. The Command post has been evacuated, except for emergency personnel The extent of damage and casualties are presently unknown.

Up-dating information on indicates that 4 US were killed and 61 were wounded in the attack against Bien Hoa air field. In addition three aircraft were destroyed and 19 aircraft were damaged. It is unknown how many enemy were killed, but 17 were captured. Light contact is still taking place on the base perimeters. The runways and taxiways are presently undamaged.

Yesterday afternoon the Marble Mountain air base, near Da Nang, came under a rocket and mortar attack, with an estimated 25-30 rounds impacting within the compound. A total of 23 helicopters received damage. Two US were wounded during the attack.

At 3:10 yesterday the air base at Chu Lai also came under a rocket and mortar attack. In this attack nine aircraft received damage. During the attack the ammunition dump was hit resulting in secondary explosions. Two US were killed and five were wounded as a result of this attack.

Also yesterday afternoon the air base at Phu Bai came under rocket attack but there was no damage to aircraft or runways. Four US were killed and 14 wounded during the attack.

Early yesterday morning the city of Can Tho and the airfield, in the Delta, came under a ground and mortar attack by an estimated two enemy battalions. This attack lasted throughout the day and as of last report South Vietnamese National Police and ARVN troops were bring the situation under control. An enemy force of 50 personnel have been split into three groups and are held up in an old pogoda and two other buildings in the center of town. At present 55 enemy have been killed and 52 others have been wounded and captured. Friendly losses are 13 killed and 34 wounded.

An estimated six enemy companies attacked the city of Ben Tre, in Kien Hoa Province, and indications are that the enemy moved into the city. However, after heavy fighting the enemy has been driven to the outskirts of the city where fighting is still underway. Preliminary reports indicate that 80 enemy were killed. At present there are no reports of US casualties.

Late yesterday evening one North Vietnamese battalion was reported within Kontum City and an additional North Vietnamese battalion was stationed on the outskirts of the city. The MACV compound was reported as under attack but is holding out with military reinforcements on the way. At last report 150 enemy had been killed. US losses were 7 killed and five wounded.

The town of Phan Thiet, Bien Thuan Province, is reported as being under enemy control. US Public Service personnel in the town have requested to be evacuated and an aircraft is underway to take them to Nha Trang.

Nha Trang itself is just snapping back after two nights and two days of fighting in which time one enemy battalion entered the city and destroyed the sector headquarters and captured the Province headquarters and radio station prior to being driven out leaving 103 killed and 20 captured. At least 12 Americans are dead or missing. Scattered sniping on the fringes of the town continues, however.

In the coastal town of Qui Nhon South Korean and South Vietnamese troops secured the radio and train station that remained in enemy hands throughout yesterday. 70 enemy were killed in the fighting at Qui Nhon with an additional 10 being captured. It now appears that Qui Nhon is under allied control.

During the period 5:00 Monday to 11:00 PM last night 2,291 enemy were killed throughout South Vietnam. Allied casualties are unknown at present, but they are reported as light.

North Vietnam

Scheduled strikes against major targets in North Vietnam were cancelled because of poor operation weather in the target areas. US pilots flew a total of 90 sorties over North Vietnam yesterday. The major emphasis of these strikes were against lines of communications.

White House Situation Room

Raymond Molloy

Briefing Officer